

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY North Korea

REPORT

SUBJECT The Minju Chosŏn Press Company

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

A report on the Minju Chosŏn Press Company, publisher of the North Korean Government official organ.

The report includes an organization chart, descriptions of the functions of the chief officials and of the bureaus under their jurisdiction, and a statement of the rules imposed by the censoring authorities to govern publication of material.

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I. Details

Minju Chosŏn Press Company
1 July 1953

1. Organisational Chart:

Chief Editor (Head of the Company)

- Staff Department (3)
- Confidential Document Office (2)

Deputy Chief Editor in charge of the Magazine Publication

- Chief, Magazine Editorial Bureau (30)
 - Deputy Bureau Chief
 - Political Department
 - Theoretical Propaganda Department
 - Proofreading Department

Deputy Chief Editor in charge of Newspaper Publication

- Chief, Newspaper Editorial Bureau (50)
 - Deputy Bureau Chief
 - Political Department
 - Propaganda Department
 - Literature and Arts Department
 - Education and Culture Department
 - Industrial Department
 - Farm Economics Department
 - International Department
 - Investigation Department
 - Photographic Department
 - Editorial Department
 - Proofreading Department
 - Letter Department

Deputy Chief in Business and Printing

- Chief, Business Bureau (90)
 - Business Department
 - Bookkeeping Department
 - Administrative Accounting Department
 - Transportation Department
- Chief, Engineering Bureau (150)
 - Type-setting Shop
 - Type-picking Shop
 - Printing Plate Shop
 - Galley Shop
 - Printing Shop
 - Engineering Shop

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(Interrogator's Note:

more than half of the workers were dismissed in accordance with the Ch'alla (Labor Speed-Up) campaign which began effective since October 1958.)

2. Functions:

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- 1) **Chief Editor:** He who was appointed by the Cabinet was the head of the company.
- 2) **Staff Department:** The department handled of hiring and dismissing the employees of the company.
- 3) **Confidential Document Section:** The section was responsible for receiving, sending out, and filing the documents in addition to keeping and using the legal seals and official stamps of the company.
- 4) **Deputy Chief Editor in charge of the Magazine Publication:** He supervised the chief of the Magazine Editorial Bureau to assist the Chief Editor of the company.
 - A) **Magazine Editorial Bureau:** The bureau published a monthly magazine called "Inmin Chaphi" (People's Magazine), the contents of which covered the literatures of KIM Il-sung's speeches and the Korean Labor Party Meetings, and the propaganda articles by means of publicizing the Marx-Leninism, and the development of the agricultural cooperatives. The reporters of the Political Department and the Theoretical Department of the bureau collected data from the governmental and Party organizations in addition to translating the Russian Publications. The magazine had about 130 pages and was sold for 15 won.
- 5) **Deputy Chief Editor in charge of Newspaper Publication:** He was assisted by the chief and deputy chief of the Newspaper Editorial Bureau and was responsible for publishing the daily newspaper "Minju Choson" (Democratic Korea), the organ of the North Korean Government.
 - A) **Newspaper Editorial Bureau:** The reporters of the Political Department, Propaganda Department, Literature and Arts Department, Education and Culture Department, Industrial Department, and Farm Economics Department collected the data for newspaper in contact with the appropriate organizations of the Government and the Korean Labor Party and social organizations. The majority of the articles were written by Government and Party organizations so that the reporters merely ran errands between the company and the Government organizations by which the articles were written. The reporters themselves wrote very little. The International Department of the bureau translated the foreign publications and news highlights. The Investigation Department of the bureau conducted the reference checks when requested by the reporters of the collecting departments of the bureau in connection with the articles to be announced. The Photographic Department was staffed by the cameramen to take photographs to be shown with the articles on the newspapers.

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The Editorial Department edited the sentences of the articles collected by the reporters in the bureau, and the Proofreading Department conducted the proofreading.

- 6) Deputy Chief Editor in Business and Printing: He supervised the activities of the Chiefs of the Business Bureau and the Engineering Bureau:
 - A) Business Bureau: The Business Department of the bureau provided with the printing papers, inks, and other materials needed by the company. The Bookkeeping Department of the bureau kept the accounting records and settled accounts in dealing with the bank authorities in addition to paying the employees of the company. The Transportation Department of the bureau transported the incoming materials and outgoing newspapers.
 - B) Engineering Bureau: The bureau operated the printing process from type-setting work through final printing. The Engineering Shop of the bureau was responsible for maintaining the printing machinery and all equipment owned by the company.

3. Censoring Authorities:

- 1) The company was obliged to comply with the instructions of the Press Section, Propaganda Department, Central Committee, Korean Labor Party on the extent of announcing each article, the selection of columns and pages for the important announcements, the size and place of printing each photograph on the newspaper, the duration of announcing the same articles for propaganda purpose, etc.
- 2) The articles written or collected by the reporters were checked first by the appropriate department chiefs, second by the Deputy Bureau Chief, third by the Bureau Chief, fourth by the Deputy Chief Editor, and finally by the Chief Editor of the Company. The Chief Editor of the company usually overlooked them, and accordingly, the final checking was usually made by the Deputy Chief Editor. The galley proof sheets were taken to the Cabinet Publication Guidance and Censorship Bureau for the final approval. Without the final approval of the Cabinet Publication Guidance and Censorship Bureau, the galley proof sheets could not be turned over to the Printing Shop for printing.

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